

Preface of the Reichsarchiv to the 2nd edition.

The assumption expressed in the foreword to the 1st edition that the need for individual representations of battles is growing become, the more the memory fades, and the more the increasing Distance from the powerful experience brings leisure to retrospective reflections has proven to be correct. With everyone since

At the end of the World War, the series of writings has a found increasing distribution, so that today the publication of a 2nd edition, comprising all previously published volumes, in one increased height several times compared to the 1st edition, becomes necessary.

The Reichsarchiv can see in the increasing dissemination of the series of writings that there is a need for more

popular circle when it came to these individual representations

The aim was to set the inner connection in a historically faithful reproduction of the mighty battles in which the German people gave their blood and life with unforgettable devotion. The endeavor that

To help save individual deeds of German men from oblivion and the heroes of the war a memorial to their struggles and deaths have found approval and support everywhere. It was even possible, by means of one built with collected funds

"Book donation" numerous people's and school libraries with the first

7 volumes of the series of writings to supply free of charge. Unfortunately, however, the

Inflation prematurely destroyed this work, for whose support the

Thanks are also due to donors here.

In numerous reviews in the press, the series of writings has invariably received a great deal of recognition. Some of the published volumes have met with an unusual degree of applause.

Nevertheless, it is always good to strive for further perfection of the representations. A battle of the world war exhaustive and clear too

describe, not least in view of the often insufficient j

documents, proved to be an extremely tedious and laborious task. The accumulated experience, and also from the circle of readers

grateful suggestions came, will be usefully used

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be able. It is also to be hoped that the individual volumes will be published in appear in faster succession.

After now still in the course of this year the first volume of the large, coherent work of the Reich Archives on the World War can be published, the writing sequence is sought

To bring "Battles of the World War" into a supplementary relationship with this work. This coherent work will only be explained in very broad outlines with regard to the abundance of the material to be treated

deal with the course of the individual combat operations. the

Battle depictions of this series of writings are said to be on the big one there drawn framework and the description of the events up to continue the final details.

In the future, too, this will only be possible if the fellow combatants based on personal memories and records, the official ones

Complete the documents of the Reich Archives. As before, the

Editor (Department 0, Archivrat Soldan) for each battle representation that is being worked on, the participants in the battles

request cooperation. The Reichsarchiv hopes that

these requests will continue to be accompanied by success.

But to all those who, by providing personal records,

who supported our work by answering questionnaires or exchanging ideas verbally, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks. Above all

thanks to others, finally, to the writers and to all the officers

who put their proven power in the service of the scriptures ^ by

they undertook the historical research of the course of a battle.

May the circle of these employees continue to expand! In regard to the endlessly long chain of battles of the world war there is still so much work to be done here, as is the case with this establishment

Written sequence was pronounced, the German people faces alive what they endured and achieved in four long, hard years of war, so that here for coming generations a historically faithful

and as perfect a picture as possible of the greatness and hardness of ours

Battle of doubt can arise.

The President of the Reich Archives
v. Mertz.

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foreword.

It is a special joy for me, a little of the Lord

Following the author, the present document "The

Battle of Aaranowitschi" a foreword that

is dedicated to my former army corps, with

to be allowed to go. I do it so much

rather than the Army Corps, later that in general

Called "Silesian", a history of this war

has to show what it is with his home province of Silesia for everyone

connect times.

The ^andwehr corps consisted for the most part of Silesians, too

a smaller part from teams from the province of Poznań. Similar

saw the officer corps together.

Although I had already said goodbye -19-11, I became

with statement of mobilization to the commanding general of this

Corps, Excellency Frhr. v. Koenig as commander of the 3rd, Excellency

v.Because he was appointed commander of the 4th Landwehr Division.

The majority of the troops knew me personally from the time when

I commander of the VI. Silesian) Army Corps had been.

It was not until the spring of 1914 that the War Ministry decided to set up a defense corps against the East in the event of war

When the mobilization started, it was therefore still missing in every corner and

End up. Heavy artillery was not ready, engineer and medical formations had to be improvised, and as far as I remember

I had only 12 machine guns at my disposal in the first period. But the spirit of the troops was excellent, the discipline exemplary, and the field training was to prove its worth.

So I advanced with the corps on August 30th, accompanied by my

Staff, at the head of which was Lieutenant Colonel Heye, who

of the war should become a loyal friend, full of enthusiastic

Hope entered Poland via Ezenstochau-Kalisch and crossed to easy

Battles on September 3 down the Vistula south of Ivangorod. Here kicked

the Landwehr Corps in the association of the Austro-Hungarian 1st Army

and remained in direct contact with the Austrian army without interruption until the end of 1917.

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The glorious deeds that the Landwehr Corps had the opportunity to accomplish should not be listed individually here. I only call

the names Tarnawka, pilica, Czenstochau, Siennno, the 2nd Vistula crossing at Ryczywol, Slonim and Aaranowitschi. What battle success

and other military services, the Landwehr Corps holds

the comparison with any other active and well-tried Prussian

corps out. Thousands of kilometers on largely unfathomable paths were overcome in spite of the rigors of the eastern climate and the worst imaginable possibilities for accommodation. As once in

Wars of liberation, the fatherland proud of its Schlessche Landwehr and

looked grateful, the Schlestine Landwehr Corps was now after 100

years the object of blazing enthusiasm for Silesia's life

residents who, especially in the winter of 1914/15, far outnumbered one

had protected enemies from the horrors of Russian invasion.

After the armistice with Russia in December 191? became

Army Group Woyrsch was dissolved and my mobilization regulations were cancelled. With a heavy heart, the "old man said goodbye

Woyrsch" by his brave and heroic fighters of the Landwehr Corps.
Times have changed. The Silesian Army Corps
does not exist anymore. But I have remained the same, and my thoughts
lead me, who am Silesian myself, to the places where
I with my Silesian militia "with God for king and
Fatherland" fought and won.

Aad Kudowa, July 1920.

v. Woyrsch, general field marshal.

Only a few days before his death, the aged, national
tumultuous Field Marshal with this preface of his beloved
Landwehr Corps thought. It's one last for his comrades-in-arms
Greetings from "old Woyrsch".

The Editorial Board.

Baranovichi".... "Silesian Landwehr Corps"

. . . Names fused in fire. . . forged in iron and blood! Plain wooden crosses in dunes
and forests, in the

Swamps on the Shchara and Servech

speak a mute but haunting language.

They tell of struggle and victory, of hardship

and death. They announce the heroism of their sons to their homeland.

Great-grandchildren of the men who once with smashing pistons the

archenemy into the torrential waters of the Katzbach. . . grey-bearded men, militia
men... that's how they moved in mid-August

1914 from Czenstochau and Kalisch to the east via Radom against

the Vistula and rushed effectively to the beleaguered Austrians

Help. After a costly retreat through Galicia von Janow

they blocked the way of the advancing Russians across the San.

Only four days of defense. . . then Colonel-General led

v. W o y r s h his Silesians to attack again. victorious
 Parts of the corps fought at Opatow on October 4th and 5th. Versus
 Nowo-Alexandria led the further advance. Then endless
 Marches over to the left army wing on Rawa for defence
 Russian attacks from Warsaw. After on October 27th
 initiated general withdrawal took place on November 5th
 old trenches near Czenstochau the Silesian soldiers
 up again. A mighty arc of a circle spanning about 1050 km was closed in constant
 march, battle, victory and
 Retreat. After a new thrust against the Vistula: — Trench warfare until the strategic
 breakthrough at Gorlice-Tarnow
 At the beginning of May 1915 we untied our entire front
 attack set in motion. About Kielce and Radom worked

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The battles for Baranowlkschl.
 the Silesian Landwehr advanced in heavy fighting. At the
 July 17, the breakthrough battle at Siennio opened the way to
 Vistula and the crossings between Warsaw and Jangorod.
 the army fought its way through the capital of Poland
 "Prince Leopold of Bavaria" with the army detachment W o y r f ch
 the roads to the east, crossed the bow, traversed that
 immeasurable primeval forest area of the Bialowieska Forest and reached the area
 east of Baranovich in mid-September. There the trench warfare on the Shtkhara
 began.
 The area and the seedbed of the Baranovich Aronl.
 (Drawings 1 and 2, Appendices 1 and 2.)
 dune sand . . . Forest . . . Swamp... the northernmost reaches of the Rokitno
 swamps send their traces into the Shtkhara river basin east of Baranovich. Through
 the Rokitno Marshes above Pinfk our front line followed that of the
 Jasiolda branching Oginski channel through impassable bog

and marshland and through Lake Vygonovskoye to Shchara,
whose west bank they cross partly wooded dune terrain
accompanied to Lake Koldytchevo. The ridge hills of the western
On the Servetsch-Ufers our positions continued to the north.
The strategic center of this sector of the front was Baranovichi as a crossing point of the most important Russian operational lines
Moscow-Minsk-Brest-Litovsk and Vilna-Rovno,
which intersect in Baranovichi and with the great line
Dunaburg—Vilnius—Warsaw connected via Slonim—Bialystok
will. Mighty station facilities and extensive warehouses
Russian railway brigade mark the strategic importance of the place Baranovichi.
The advance of the army detachment W o y r sch against the
Shchara gave the Russians this for their defense
Western Front and for troop shifts on the north-south line
essential point snatched away. A later one of them about that

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general line Lyakhovichi-Krashin made provisionally
The connecting line connected the Schtfkhara and Ser-
wetsch torn legs of the two main tracks, was able
or not to replace the loss of the important node.
So Baranovichi remained the target of a Russian offensive.
Trench warfare on the Oginsky Canal, on Shtkhara and Servech! — Trench warfare
in swamp, dune and forest!
Northwest of Pinsk lies — in the middle of bog and swamp
— the watershed between the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea. Sluggish
rolls brown waters of the Dniester, the Vistula and the
Yemen to.

Thousands of rivulets, unregulated river courses, frequent floods constantly change the landscape. Broken land alternates with bog, forest with swamp and heath, dune with

poor soil. Rotting tree trunks shimmer mysteriously at night above the swaying plant cover. reed

surrounds unfathomable waterholes. deciduous forests nestle

to the chains of dunes at the Shtschara and Servetsch user.

The swamp area at the Oginski Canal is the site of the

small war. The primeval forests between Logishin, Lake Vygonovskoye and Shchara Knee hardly permit the movement of closed formations. The peat soil trembles and vibrates.

Billet dams need to reinforce swaying jetties. vastness,

the enemy can ambush bare swampy areas from a protected position

take on fire. Dense undergrowth, numerous water veins

and black pools make movement difficult at step and

kick. Death lurks in swamps and moors around posts, patrols and advanced observers. She pulls mercilessly

deceptive plant cover down their prey into the brown, gurgling depths. Resourcefulness, dexterity and presence of mind

Patrols and chasing squads are prerequisites for the

War in this treacherous terrain. The Russian had it

better! Wayward citizens, familiar with the secrets

this swamp landscape, stood by him to help.

North of Shchara Knee grow swamp and bog

firmer forms. Here the hills and dunes allowed

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Battles for Baranovichi.

terrain on Shchara and Servech the development and movement of closed formations enables larger operations

in attack and defense. So we see at the Oginski Canal

the small war and the artillery battle, the decisive battles

on the banks of Shchara and Servech.

In mid-May 1916, Woyrsch's army department had this terrain held the following positions: On the south wing held the Befkidenkorps (Hofmann) with reserve and Landwehr units the watch on the Oginsky Canal and on the Shchara Knee. parts of Landwehr Division Bredow north of the great military road from Brest-Litovsk to Moscow defended the right Shchara Shore to the west of Lyakhovich. via Labufy—Litva to Darowo was the 3rd Landwehr Division (v. Woyna), up to Koldychevo-See the 4th Landwehr Division (v. Brietzke). general of the cavalry Freiherr v. König commanded the Landwehr Corps. He had gloriously led the 3rd Landwehr Division through Poland and Galicia, via Janow, Opatow and Ivangorod. In mid-December 1914 he took over on behalf of the the army-leading Generaloberst v. W o y r f ch command of the Landwehr Corps, led his Schlesier in 1915 from Częstochowa through the mountains of Kielcze from Sieg to Victory and earned in the brilliant breakthrough battle Sienna on July 17 the Order of Poiule Merite. United with that victorious leaders in the fire and blood of numerous battles, now defended the Schlesifche Landwehrkorps on the west bank of the Shchara the strategic point Baranovich. The Austrian XU. Corps (v. Henriquez) with the divisions 16 and 35 formed from Koldychevo Lake on the western shore of the Servech to the area of Polufhje in 28 km front width the left wing of the army department Woyrsch, which is located there the XXV. Reserve Corps (v. Scheffer-Boyadel) of the 9th Army (Prinz Leopold of Bavaria) joined.

In total, therefore, the army detachment held with five Germans and two Austrian divisions occupied a front of 163 km. The Befkidenkorps on the right wing had the widest range Extension with 88 km front line. This very long front

was made possible and justified by the swampy terrain and the thin Russian occupation opposing the divisions. Of

the Moscow highway to the left wing of the army detachment

became the occupation according to the greater probability

an attack along this road, against Baranovich and

against Gorodishtsche, denser and more closed. About 80 covered batteries, over 40 uncovered batteries and 370 machine guns increased the fighting power. Bombproof shelters in

large number, obstacle installations with an average width of 40 m

and bolt positions strengthened the installations, while in the swampy area of the Beskid corps a log cabin system did not

possible construction of connected ditches had to replace.

The Russians faced the seven German divisions with nine

Infantry and two cavalry divisions in first line and probably with three other divisions in second line.*)

The Brusilov offensive in Volhynia in June 1916.

(Sketches 1 and 3.)

The raging of the Russian northern offensive in March 1916

between Smorgon and Dünaburg only a faint echo had reached the Shchara. It was still calm

down here in the south—the calm before the storm! The March

Offensive**) was smothered in swamp and blood. wave after wave

had rolled in vain against the protective wall of

Hindenburg Wall at the front of the Scholtz and Eichhorn armies

between Smorgon and Dünaburg. Hundreds of thousands were ver-

*) 3rd line: 83 Znf.Div., 5 Kos.Div. and 1 Border Guard Div.;

10. A.K. with 31 and 9 Znf.Div.; Grenadier Corps with 1st and 2nd Grenadiers. and

81 Inf.Div., Polish Brig. and Transbaikial-Kos.Div.; 25. A.K. with 46 Inf.

and 3 Gren.Div. 3n second line: 9. A.K. with 5 and 42 Znf.Div.^

opposite the left wing at Stolpce.

**) Cf. "The Great War in Individual Representations", Issue 31, "The Russian Spring Offensive 1916" by Malther Flex. Publisher G. Stalling, Oldenburg 1913

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The battles for Baranowttschl.

vainly sacrificed in a hopeless attack. But the western powers again called for help and ruthlessly pushed for continuation of fights. The German attack on Verdun had them der Deprived of freedom of action and sapped my strength enormously of the French army. Just a joint counterattack could bring a relief which, one reliably hoped, ultimately had to lead to the collapse of the desperately struggling Dual Alliance. While in June the Germans before

Verdun still didn't let go, the preparations went

the English and French for a major offensive on the

towards completion. To ensure the success of this

generous attack planned on a broad front, the Russian steamroller had to be set in motion again

will. Hence the directions to the east, the

To make a start and thereby the German reserves from the withdraw the western front.

The Russian army command responded to the calls for help from the

West. In Volhynia they had those comparatively weak ones

Found a spot that suits you for a strategic breakthrough

seemed. In a ruthless attack, sparing no human sacrifice, General Brusilov drove his masses against the southern wing and the center of the Austrian 4th Army of the Heeres-

front Linsingen.

These attacks began on June 4 with barrage against the positions of the Austrian X Corps, which felt compelled to go back to the third position west of Rovno. Strength Losses and constantly repeated Russian attacks made on June 6th, this corps gave way behind the Jkwa and the Styr required. On the following day the positions on the Jkwa, on the Styr, at the bridgehead of Luck and in The Luck-Kolki line was to be evacuated, while the north wing, taken up by hastily thrown in, was at first only weak German associations of the Bernhardi group, the opponent that push through Styr and Sierna was still able to resist. Then renewed mass attacks forced the Austrian X Corps further to a position about 12 km west of Luck

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give way while the neighboring corps Bernhardi and Czurmayer still held positions on the Styr and new reinforcements, the German 108th and Austrian 29th Divisions counterattacked were drawn together around Perespa. June 9 brought a further aggravation of the situation: the corps Czurmayer backed away again; not even after extraordinary losses more combat-capable X Corps continued its retreat. Against group Bernhardi conducted the Russian 49th and 59th Army Corps launched the attack. If the enemy in the initially proceeded hesitantly and step by step in the following days, to counter the newly deployed German forces to the north-west swing in the direction of Kovel, the situation remained very much the same serious and critical. Around mid-June, the front passed about 35 to 49 km arcing west of Luck. Aggravation of the situation in the Woyrsch army department.

(Sketch 2, Appendix 1.)

The front of the Austrian 4th Army gave way
could not remain without influence on the neighboring fronts. That
the Russian high command to exploit their victories and others
would seek to transfer fronts was more than likely. The change in the situation was
bound to take place for us immediately

First express the need to give the hard-pressed Linsingen Army Group all the forces
that could be spared

To supply neighboring fronts for reinforcement.

As early as the evening of June 5, the Woyrsch Army Department was considering
which parts of the army reserve could be offered for support. As therefore

on the morning of June 6, the Supreme Army Command

Port of six battalions and three batteries to Army Group

L i n s i n g e n ordered, could immediately from the army reserve

delivered the following parts of the Landwehr Division Bredow

become: Staff of the 28th Landwehr Brigade (Major General Biß),

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Battles for Baranovichi.

the Landwehr Infantry Regiments 57 and 133 and the 1st Division of the Landwehr
Field Artillery Regiment 3. This tax

made it necessary to rebuild the reserves around Baranovichi

lich, which should be carried out by June 8th. There were

now designated as new reserves:

a) for the army group under Major v. Kaulbach: at Baranovichi II./Ldw.J.R. 9 of the 35
Res.Div., III./Res.J.R.

218 of the 47th Res.Div., Res.Jäger-Batl. 21 of the XXV. reserve

Corps, by transport from Rowojelnia; and the

6./Ldw.Feldart.R. already in Baranovichi. 5.

b) for the army department west of Stalowitschi under the leadership of Lieutenant
General v. Kramsta, commander

of the 4th Ldw.Kav.Brig.: Ldw.J.R. 19 of the 35th Res.Div.,,

IR 335 of the XXV. Res.Korps, this one at Drogobyl, two

Field batteries and II./Saxon.Fußa.Batl. 19. The commander of the Ldw.J.R. 51, Colonel v. Kern, was assigned as the leader of this composite infantry

brigade chosen.

Even if until June 7th the situation in front of the front of the

Army group didn't show any changes yet, it had to

expect surprises; be it that the Russian forces

to the decisive battle at Army Group Linsingen

shifted there, be it that he increased his successes there by simultaneously putting pressure on Woyrsch's army detachment

wanted to. A breakthrough on Kovel with a simultaneous breakthrough via Baranovichi must have been his operational goal.

The enemy stood ready to attack Baranovichi

more than sufficient forces available at the moment: Vor

the Beskydy Corps the 83rd Infantry Division, 1 Border Guard and the 5th

Don Cossack Division. Before the Landwehr Division Bredow

and the right wing of the 3rd Landwehr Division the Russian

10. A.K. with the 31st Division and the 9th Division to the north.

Division. Opposite the 4th Landwehr Division the Russian

Grenadier Corps with 1st and 2nd Grenadier Div. in the front and-

81 Jnf.Div., 1 Polish Brigade and Transbaikial Cossack

div. secondarily. Before the Austrian XII. Corps

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the Russian 25th Corps with 46 Infantry and 3 Gren.Div. that on

the army detachment Woyrsch north adjoining Germans

XXV. Only the newly formed Turkestan 7th Division appeared to have a reserve corps. Since further in second

line with the presence of the Turkestan 1st and 2nd Divisions,

of the 11th Siberian Rifle Division in front of the army detachment and the Russian 9th Corps with 5th and 42nd Inf.Div. in

was to be expected in the area of Stolpce, the enemy remained even with the delivery of stronger parts to the Brusilov front still considerably superior forces to lead an attack available against the front of Army Detachment Woysch.

The section north of the Minsk-Baranovichi railway belonged to the area of the Russian 4th Army (Ragosa), south of the

Train to the 3rd Army (Lesch). Both were subordinate to the general Ewert, leader of Army Group West in Minsk,

When suspected directions of a Russian attack came

Consider: the front of the Landwehr Corps and the Austrian 16th Division, in particular the sector from

Darowo east and from Stolorowitschi northeast of Baranovichi. In addition, the section of the Beskydy Corps won through the presence of the Russian Army High Command 3 in Siniawka, which has not been established with certainty but is quite possible

on both sides of the Moscow Chaussee to the south as far as the Waldungen.

Thus the days of the first week of June passed without a clear picture of the situation in front of the army front could be gained.

Reported troop movements, scouting Russian officers,

Back and forth marches of smaller detachments, heavier traffic

of messenger riders and vehicles could just as well indicate evacuation as movements for an attack. Also

those in the last few days in the Ulafsy area by the Russians advanced positions did not immediately give the impression of "attack positions".

Nevertheless, the army department was asked by the

Supreme Army Command for the possibility of further charges

to the Front Linsingen the decision was not easy, because: "From

Battles for Baranovichi.

half of Bredow's division is the 28th Landwehr Brigade
already delivered with six battalions and three batteries

rest in position. If this is also pulled out, it will

the reserve so small that a possible breakthrough at the Austrian XII. Corps cannot
be prevented with certainty

can."

Those were hours of mental tension for the Commander-in-Chief and his Chief of Staff, Lieutenant Colonel Heye. Enormous responsibility weighed on them: If the army detachment of the Linsingen Army Front failed to provide the necessary reinforcements, unpredictable disaster could break out there.

On the other hand, a Russian attempt to break through against Baranovichi could succeed if the army detachment, after having sent more forces to the south, was no longer able to ward off Russian attacks. Then the successful breakthrough via Baranovichi had to lead to a complete defeat of the Linsingen army front, since then the path was open to the enemy

behind the hard-fighting front of Linfingen

was open.

In war and in battle, however, decisions are not made alone

Numbers I The moral strength of the troops must be taken into account! The Brandenburgers, Silesians, Poseners and theirs

good allies who under Generaloberst v. Woynowicz die

Keeping guard at Shchara and Servech were not troops

who looked backwards, who looked out for reserves, when

an overpowering enemy should attack! In countless battles

they had proved that they were also against apparently overwhelming

Russian mass attacks their positions to the last man

held. So the Colonel-General decided on June 11, "at

due to the urgency of the situation, another six battalions

Artillery under the command of Lieutenant General v. Bredow to

surrender the Linsingen Army Group" and new reserves

to retire.

With a light heart, the army department will hand over those

Don't see associations parting! But down there the comrades in hot battle: the eyes of the whole world are open

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Volhynia directed! Will B r u s s i l o w also break through to Kovel? Should the decision of the Eastern War be decided down there with

fall to the victories of the Russians? At around 10° in the evening the

Supreme Army Command to the Generaloberst v. Woyrsch and

his chief of staff of the further considerations by the instruction, initially no new contributions to the Linsingen front

place. So now only the commanded and initiated detachments were carried out.

Already on the following day, June 12, the

Heralds of every Russian offensive: "Baranovichi is to be taken" — so said isolated defectors. Prisoners

told of an army order from the tsar of June 4th, which

announced Russia's fight to the last man and the imminent recapture of Warsaw.

So the Russian forces were ready! closer signs

suggested that the Russian would try with a

Mass shock to break through the section of the 4th Landwehr Division at Stolowitschi and from here the weaker neighboring section of the Austrian XII. roll up corps. One per

Russian Grenadier Division was used against the two Landwehr Regiments 51 and 11! The famous Russian grenadier corps against the "Landwercki Korpus", with which it was already

September 1914 and July 1915 had crossed arms.

This breakthrough should and had to succeed! And then:

Victorious storm over Baranovichi against Brest-Litovsk!

The First Battle of Daranovilshi.

The battle of the 4.L d w.D iv. at Stolowitschi

on June 13th.

(Drawings 2 and 4, Appendix 2.)

With bright sunshine the morning emerges

of June 13 up from swamps and forests.

Silence all around. Only disturb here and there

isolated shots, the silence... this oppressive,

eerie silence! Suddenly, around 5 o'clock

early, storms roar out of the blue.

Russian mass fire hurls hail of iron

against the northern section of the 4th Landwehr Division from Skarchevo to Lake Koldychevo. Soon the fire expands

further south towards our positions at Mihalovo and on the Moscow railway. Batteries of all calibers

smash iron on our trenches. The barrage continued until well into the afternoon on both sides of the railway line and

especially towards the sector west of Ulassy, where movements in the Russian trenches and attempts to clear the obstacles pointed to the impending attack. With the Austrians, the Russian seemed under

the mask of its total fire to shoot in unobtrusively. In the

Around Wonki there was heavy fire on the sector of the

Division Bredow, while on the southern wing, with the Beskydy Corps,

calm prevailed. The Chief of Staff of the Commander-in-Chief East,

Lieutenant General Ludendorff, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel

Hoffmann the 83rd Infantry Regiment stationed in Wilna

to support that in the night of the 14th by train

arrive in Molczads, 55 km northwest of Baranovichi

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and from there in about ten hours at Voroncha or in six

Hours at Gorodischtsche for possible use in the Austrian corps could arrive. Generaloberst v. W o y r s ch posed

The Landwehr Infantry Regiment 19 was available to the Landwehr Corps from the army reserve.

The attacker's goal was no small one: to break through the main position and push on Baranovichi! were for this in the final days before the attack, the 1st Grenadier Division in the section from Woykovichi to the swamp north of Ulasfy, then the 2nd Grenadier Division south to Kraschin and as a special shock force behind them at Lomaschi, the Russians

ZI. Infantry Division deployed. While the 1st Grenadier Division was to advance in eight waves with all four regiments, the 2nd Grenadier Division was initially only to attack with the 3rd and 8th Regiments. Of the

The timing was well chosen. The Russian leadership was not escaped that the army department W o y r sch associations to the beleaguered Army Group L i n s i n g e n had had to give up. So the Russian expected with confidence in the success of this Numerical superiority could not be denied. The Grenadiers were only ordered to attack shortly before the storm announced. The troupe knew what was in store for them: "The sky is high . . . The tsar was far . . . And stood over there the "Landwercki corpus"!"

After about twelve hours of barrage against the 4th Landwehr Division, the Russian artillery increased shortly before 7 p.m

the fire to the highest strength. Then penetrated into great depths the infantry attack against the left wing of the III./Ldw.Rgts.

11 and against the Landwehr Regiment 51, also against the von Cavalry occupied the "musketeer section" and the outermost right wing of the Austrian 31st Infantry Regiment southwest of Lake Koldychevo.

When the barrage began in the morning, General spoke v. King to his Silesians: "Should the enemy attack, so I need not admonish to bravery. This lies

in the blood of the winners of Sienna. So I'm just referencing

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Battles for Baranovichi.

on the principle: only calm can do it!" The Führer

knew fine people! Strike in the roar of battle weather

quiet hearts in German trenches. Observers and sentries crouch here and there. In shelters, foxholes, in the of

in the grenade-plowed hole lies the Silesian soldier

and waits. He waits in the roar of the barrage. Shelters are buried, ditch weirs disappear, funnels

lined up in funnels in the torn up earth, in the spattering

Mud. The Silesian Landwehr is waiting. She waits in the morning and waits in the afternoon. The hours crawl endlessly

until German calm and imperturbability shall wrestle with the wild

Russian Mass Assault.

Now, over there, points are separating out of the fire and smoke.

Russian combat patrols advance slowly at 5 p.m. Soon the dots form more densely and close together to form lines. One follows the other. Russian tide surges

approach! It rushes and storms in eight waves. And then

at 7 o'clock in the evening the unchained brown crowd surges against the

German obstacles. The tidal wave rears up seven times

and hurls waves at the west bank of the Shchara. Atomized waves roll back seven times. Bale storming lines

into lumps and heaps. Shredded remains hang in the

obstacles. 24 Russian grenadier battalions against 4 weak ones

German Landwehr battalions! Nevertheless, the Russian shatters

Storm surge on the creeping dike!

When storm-tossed sea waves roaring surf

hurl against the harbor mole, they shake here and there

firmly attached ashlar under the tremendous force of the impact. They sway and fall back into their equilibrium position. Here and there stones and pebbles crumble, but

the structure holds and defies the impotent rage of blind violence.

Here the Silesian dyke holds against the Russian tide. Powerful

the waves are pounding. But in the raging defensive fire of

Landwehr Division breaks the force of the storm. Probably

a brave Russian troop leaps up in defiance of death

the Silesians. But in the German fire, the bandages loosen.

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The solid masses become confused, disorderly heaps. well

In some places advanced ditches were broken into. but

in the obstacle of the main position the attack breaks down exhausted. And while the storm waves their spray against wire

and hurl ditch, rise from the ranks of the defenders

the sub-leaders emerge, their shining example the comrades

enthusiastic and carried away. Iron figures, these soldiers,

NCOs and young officers, their boldness and self-sacrifice

shall remain unforgotten!

The Landwehr Regiment Oil and the two Landwehr

Squadrons of the "Musketeer Section" bore the brunt

to carry the attack defense. As "Battle of Stolovichi"

find these heavy battles henceforth entered in the glorious history of the Great War.

The attack directed against the I./51 (Major Jahn) succeeded

already developing in severe confusion from the fire

of the advanced field guards. At II./51 (Major Halliersch)

At first the "Friedrichswerk" was not under artillery fire. The 8th Company had used the opportunity and that

Plant occupied in order to counter the "Musketeer Section" from there to flank the expected attack. The 7th company was also in capable of turning the attacker attacking "Feste Kronprinz" into to grab the flank. Woykovichi opposed the m/51 (Hptm. Glatzer) preliminary Russian received violent early Gunfire from the "Swamp Hill" position.

The German crews waited in the dugouts the command to barrage. Behind the sections of the three Battalions stood ready at reserves: at the east exit of Zagorje, 11/51 near Torchitsy, 12/51 behind her battalion; by the companies of the Landwehr Regiment 19 was the 11th company behind the right wing the 9th behind the middle of the "musketeer section".

Then, at 7:00 in the evening, the Germans set in on the whole front of the attack barrage on. Shortly thereafter, in front of I./Z1, the attack of the Russian 7th Grenadier-regiment with terrible losses together and flooded in

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Battles for Baranovikshi.

return to the starting positions. The attack was also in vain roared in five to six waves against the section of II./51.

The 6th company was stationed with two platoons on the "Feste Kronprinz", advanced with a train in the so-called "Russian grave".

Company commander was Oberleutnant d. R. Herrmann, official and community leaders from Brockau in Silesia; Lieutenant D. R. Goos from Karlsruhe held the "Russian grave" with about 30 men occupied. At the call: "You kumma!" Lieutenant Goos fell with his people out of the shelters and received that

Attackers with devastating fire. Russian supremacy penetrated
to within ten paces of the ditch. A furious grenade fight began. Wave after wave
rushed against that
"Russian Grave". The small crew fought desperately... but
she held! The enemy superiority was tenfold! in strong
The enemy had already secured masses in the obstacle.
The Russian company commander was already taunting and taunting him
German language the small group of defenders. lieutenant
Gods threw himself with some people at the Russian, who was killed by a
wanted to penetrate the listening post ditch, and found that
hit by a Russian lieutenant's bullet
heroic death Six brave Silesian militias fell with him at the same time. Another
eleven lay wounded on the ground: only
thirteen more men defended the work. Then Vice Sergeant Seidel from Patzschkau
in Silesia took over the leadership. With
he rushed towards the enemy with a small group of hand grenades and cleared up
the hordes of attackers terribly.
The Russian leader's invective was stifled by a scream as the avenging bullet
knocked him to the ground. Run helped
the enemy himself followed: they sent a whole layer of grenades
Russian artillery into their own ranks. Stormed again now
Vice Sergeant Seidel. The attacker fled wildly
back, pursued by the fire of the brave field guard and the neighboring
"Hohenzollernwerk", which had already been badly shot up. More
ols 200 corpses lay in front of the "Russian grave".
Further north all attacks broke in barrage-

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together. Even the use of two armored cars armed with machine guns did not help.
To the south of the "swamp hill" brave cavalymen defended
their trenches in the "Musketeer Section". Since autumn 1913

had the Landwehr Cavalry Regiment 2, the later Ldw.
Kav.Schützen-Rgt. 11, under Major Seyd a 1 km wide
Section between II. and III./Ldw.Jnf.Rgts. 51 with right hand
Wing adjoining the "Hohenzollern-Werk" to the north, with
left wing south of the "swamp hill". Two so-called musketeer companies under
Lieutenant v.Ram i n and Rittmeister
v. O b e r n i t z awaited the attack here on June 13th. Of
Hour by hour the situation grew more serious. criss-cross
tree trunks and branches lay in a wild tangle in front of the
ditches. Rittmeister v. O b e r n i t z was wounded and had to
hand over the leadership of the 2nd company to Lieutenant Rauch.
The Russians advanced in deep masses. were hot shots
the barrels of rifles and machine guns in defensive fire
the Musketeers. There . . . finally: "The enemy is standing!" Now heaves
him back and forth. . . unsure where to turn. and
now he retreats! The Russian officers try in vain
to drive their people forward six more times. — The invaders
Russians were finished off in hand grenade combat, with Sergeant Franz and
Corporal Seidel distinguishing themselves. This
Braven left the concrete stand with their machine guns despite the artillery fire still
lying on the position and
fired from a parapet so effectively that the
Russian had to give way. From heaps of horribly mutilated corpses
the following day 60 Russians were wounded here alone
pulled out.
Deeply articulated in seven waves, followed by strong columns,
the enemy attacked the position on the "swamp hill" from Woykowitchi, which was
attacked by 48 men of the 10th company Ldw.J.R. 81
was busy. Overwhelming numbers worked their way up and embraced the buried
trenches. The brave sacrificed herself in vain

Crew. Their leader, Lieutenant Herold, lay badly wounded on the ground. To prevent its escape, dug

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the Russians crushed his legs in the ground. They stabbed beastly with the bayonet on helpless wounded. Only eight people

The crew managed to retreat into a half-buried tunnel, where they closed off by a mound of earth. On the western edge of "Swamp hills" the attackers dug in while north

and south the storm raged on. He tried seven times

Breaking in on the enemy at the 9th and 10th companies and gave up first after 9° in the evening his vain attempts cease; the "swamp hill" but kept it in hand.

Against that at Zagorje to Ldw.J.R. 51 subsequent Ldw.

IR The attacks of the Russian 2nd Grenadier Division were aimed at 11. The section designated as a break-in point

at the IIL/Ldw.J.R. 11 (Hptm. d. L. Zeitz) was about in the

In the middle of the 10th company, Lieutenant d. R. Müller led.

Here the barrage had completely leveled the trenches and

up to 20 m wide gaps torn in the obstacles. desert heap

of planks, beams, wire and fascines impeded traffic in the trenches. Towards evening he stormed under cover

Russians advanced in dense masses from a high rye field

along the section boundary of the two Landwehr regiments.

Individual outposts, flanked by our own defensive fire

and their backs seized, had to withdraw into the communication trenches, followed by the attacker, who was pushing hard after him. Soon

fierce battle raged for the whole "Mikhalovo Sector".

III./Ldw.J.R. 11. Into the advanced field guard positions

"Michalowo", "King Friedrich" and "Nord" stormed the rushing through the obstacles in dense masses Russian grenadiers. The enemy streamed in with the remnants of the field guards of the 10th Company, which were retreating with considerable losses in the main position, the result of a fateful coincidence here in particular had not been occupied over a wide area. In the A trench of the field guard "Michalowo" led to the projecting left part of the 11th company Russians a; albeit with less success. The replacement referee V a u p e l had paid close attention here. Swinging in the fiercest fire he climbed onto the parapet and had hand grenades handed to him

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and chased the attacker back with well-aimed throws. Of the center and the right wing bent back to the Shchara the 11th company was threatened by an attack in the rear, which was initially not recognizable due to the unclear terrain. Before a counter-attack could be launched, the Russians were already there penetrated the right wing with about 20 men and tried to roll up the trench from here. Here stood out Vice Sergeant Büß and Corporal Fuchs especially the one with a small group of people—among them Erfatzreseroist Beyer and Landsturmmann Schwannecker - repulsed the enemy superiority by independent counterattack, meanwhile the platoon of the 11. Company under the command of Lieutenant d. R. Shepherd and Feldwebelleutnants Franke attacked the Russians with such force that they fled with heavy losses. After then the also intervening Reserve company cleared the left part of the position of the Russians the field guards are occupied again. Here dared the opponent no more attack! Countless corpses lay in the high

Rye field in front of the IH. Battalion Ldw.J.R. 11.

Late in the evening was the whole attack, part of it

of the III./Ldw.J.R. 11 and the section of the 51st Regiment, collapsed bloodily. Into the returning ones

Russians smashed the pursuit fire of our artillery. This

Weapon deserves the credit, excellent for defense and for

to have contributed to the failure of the storm. A young officer

of the Ldw.Feldart.Rgts. 4, lieutenant d. R. Hilgenfeldt, particularly distinguished himself in this respect. As a forward observer with the infantry, on one of the heaviest barrages

lying work, he endured all day to get out of his

completely destroyed observatory to give his reports to the fire control backwards.

The newly formed Ldw.Feldart.Rgt. 4 allowed the battle of June 13 as

mark the first day of glory in its history.

But the honor of the day belongs to the 11th and 51st Landwehr Infantry Regiments. Were against tremendous superiority

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the positions held after almost twelve hours of barrage

and the constantly repeated mass attacks in the main position

completely knocked off. General Freiherr v. K o n i g did not have himself

deceived in his Silesians! "The calm made it!" So firm,

the battalions stood so imperturbably that, apart from the

"Musketeer Section", where 9./Ldw.J.R. 19 as a section reserve

was used, no reserves were further used.

Pale twilight of a short June night covered with gray

Veil the blood-soaked ground. The screams echoed horribly

and calls for help from wounded Russian grenadiers from obstacles,

Water and swamp through the meadow fog. Our doctors and

Stretchers went to work. How had it been?

few hours earlier? Who had the badly wounded
young German officer's legs dug into the ground?
Who had ours in bestial brutality with butt and bayonet
wounded Landwehr people lying on the ground mutilated?
German doctors and hospital bearers now fulfilled their sad,
merciful duty to friend and foe!

The rising morning revealed the terrible picture of the
battlefield. In and in front of the obstacles, hanging in the wire,
shredded bodies. There were countless in the apron and in the water
corpses and wounded. Alone before the section of
III./Ldw.J.R. 11, 600 men were loaded by June 17
grounded. At Regiment 51 and in front of the "Musketeer Section"
over 500 men were buried. About 800 dead in front of IH./Ldw.
J.R. 11 and about 1500 before the section of the 51st Regiment
the Russians themselves will have carried them away. hundreds of dead
lay unburied for days. Cautious estimates and the

Statements by the prisoners do not suggest that the attacker's total loss of 7,000
men was too high. The Germans

Losses amounted to 8 officers and 142 men, of which were
1 officer and 23 men killed.

Iron crosses and acknowledgments honored the defender. Generaloberst v. Woyrsch
thanked his troops:

"With pride, thanks and confidence I give to my brave troops,
which held up so well yesterday, the following Tele→

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gram: "My heartiest congratulations on the
Defense of the first Russian attack. They should only us
come! Leopold, Prince of Bavaria, Field Marshal."

And the division commander said to his people:

"With a firm fist, the brave regiments of the

22nd Brigade, in noble competition with the musketeer companies and brilliantly supported by artillery, defended our trenches yesterday against the onslaught of the Russians

pinned down and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Of the

June 13, 1916 is a day of glory for the division. I

thank everyone involved from their guides to the youngest

Soldiers! v. Brietzke."

"I can give the divisional commander's acknowledgment

just add my heartfelt thanks, and I also speak,

I expressed my full satisfaction to all troops.

Sachs, brigade commander."

"Generals and all superior generals have

the regiment their congratulations on the bravely fought

Victories of June 13 expressed thanks. Once again I thank all members of the regiment for the bravely fought

Victory, and that the regiment lived up to its old reputation "Forever ahead!"

with the usual cutting edge. The same thanks are due in large measure to our brave comrades, the musketeers and their guts.

v. Kern, regimental commander."

Doing justice to the opponent is called that

honor your troops. The Russian attacks of June 13 marked a visible turning point in the infantry tactics of the

enemy. The Russian officers went here for the first time

at the head of their people to attack and pointed in

brave use of their person derr the storming infantry

Path. But the Russian troops bit on granite. On the inside

Structurally shaken, grenadier divisions torn to pieces had to save themselves

seek in wild tide. Burnt out to cinders

Battles for Baranoviishi.

The Russians collected rubble in their positions. The only

The result of the first attempt to break through to Baranovichi remained

the conquest of the "Sumpfhügel-Schanze". But the Russians did not enjoy this win for long either.

Late in the evening of June 13, the III./Ldw.J.R.

51 received the order: "The battalion sits down again in the

Possession of the "Swamp Hill"!" For this purpose the 12th company

determined and agreement with the artillery, 8./Ldw. Feldart.

regiment 4 and Austrian 5.Z36, hit. After an hour and a half

Preparatory fire from these batteries was ordered on 14.5.30 a.m. the

Company commander, Lieutenant Liebau, the Vice Sergeant

Holzer's development of his move against the "Swamp Hill",

while the rest of the company was to follow. In splendid

Run-up threw Feldwebel Holzer with butts and hand grenades

following the completely surprised Russians from the approach trench

the "swamp hill" back, overran the one occupied by the enemy

trench on the western edge of the position and took 150 unwounded prisoners from the retreating enemy. This daring act

now freed Lieutenant Herold and the people trapped in the tunnel. A successful counterattack crowned it

German defensive victory at Stollowitschi.

In anticipation of new attacks.

(Sketches 2, 3 and 5.)

The collapse of the grenadier corps had its impressive effect on the supreme commander of the Russian

Western Front, General E w e r t, and to the Commander-in-Chief of the

4th Army, General Ragosa, not missed. After a weak

Attempts on the morning of June 14 to attack Kraschin again, but the enemy initially stopped further attacks. It came

Days of relative rest that lead to recovery and

were used to expand positions. It looked pretty bad

5n our ditches and obstacles. But the Landwehr

now knew what she had to do and what not to do. June 13th

had been a strict and serious teacher. with new

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Eagerly it went to the construction of bomb-proof shelters. Concrete buildings grew out of the earth; the telephone lines were

sunk deep into the ground. Obstacles had to be completed

or to create according to the new experiences. So there were plenty

Work. But the Russians did not remain idle either. Apparently he was preparing larger regroupings, the purpose of which still

was not clearly evident, but the possibility of new attacks

left open.

In mid-June there were reinforcements from the second line

the Russian 42nd Inf.Div. in front of the right wing of the 4th Landwehr

Division northeast of Darowo and the Polish Brigade and Russian 112 Inf.Div. inserted in front of the Austrian 16th Division. The Turkestan 1st Army Corps seemed to have been evacuated, so that the Russian Army Corps was now second in line

5 and 81 Inf.Div. and the Transbaikalian Div. available

were.

That the Russian High Command would make every effort in strategic connection with the Brusilov offensive against the Linsingen front that was achieved there

To expand initial successes and to do this the neighboring fronts

to harness with all powers seemed without anyone

Doubt. After German forces, the Marwitz group with

X Army Corps and 108 Inf.Div., also south-west of Luck, began a series of German raids on 16 June

Counterattacks with limited target and local hits. Her

The value was not so much in the gained space as in theirs

purely operational and moral importance. general v Linsingen thus deprived the attacker, who had been advancing incessantly, of the freedom of action, forced him to regroup,

tied up his reserves and gained the forehand in this game of balancing powers. During this struggle

tactical superiority, the Russian attempts to attack extended further north across the Linf i n g e n front.

On 19.6. W o y r f ch army detachment received a telegram

of Army Group Linsingen, "that with strong enemy

Attack against the section of the 81st Res.D!v. on the Oginski Canal

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Battles for Baranovichi.

it must be reckoned that the army group for this reason

to provide reserves behind the southern wing of the Army Section for any necessary intervention in the 81st Res.

div. expected fight please".

The 2nd Battalion of the 9th Landwehr Infantry Regiment, previously in the Army Group Reserve near Baranovichi, was

immediately removed by train and the 35. Res.Div. of the Besskden

Corps again subordinated. For the given battalion was

a battalion of the 83rd Infantry Regiment with a machine gun company in the evening from the Molcadz area (page

14) transferred to Baranovichi. As expected, then also sat

indeed initiated Russian attacks against the north wing of Army Group Li nf i n g e n. Since the morning of June 19 judged

Heavy fire spread to the positions of the 81st Reserve Division

from Martynovka (7 km southwest of Logishin) to the canal bend 5 km northwest of it. After the fire intermittently

had increased to barrage, the stormed at 5:00 in the afternoon

Russians in dense masses. Broke under German defensive fire
the attacks of the Russian 75th Division south of the path of
Logischin to the canal bend mentioned and the Russian 27th Division north of this
way together.

General B r s i l o w s method, with the use of tremendous
Blood sacrifice of wanting to force victory, his ruthless adherence to the strategic
breakthrough target "Kovel" to separation
of the allied armies and to roll up their flanks
had to be supported by simultaneous operations on the neighboring fronts, whether
these operations were expressed as subsidiary actions or as independent
operations.

Also left the behavior of the enemy to Shchara and Servech
still no clear, reliable interpretation, there were signs
recognizable, which could indicate the continuation of the major offensive operation
initiated on June 13th. So
the days up to the end of June passed in a certain even "quiet at the front" on the
outside, but on the inside
Tension increased day by day, the clearer the targets
of the Russian 3rd Army became recognizable.

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Reports were sent daily from all sections of the front
about troop movements, transports and signs of redeployment. Thus the 51st
Landwehr Infantry Regiment reported on June 18 that the enemy in front of the
front suddenly
wear fur hats instead of the lambskin hats seen there so far,
that instead of the previous gray coats, black coats would be recognizable, that
people with a strikingly dark complexion
peered curiously over the ditch walls; that all these
signs of the presence of a new, perhaps Caucasian, force
pointed. Also the work of the enemy on and in his
Positions could hardly be explained otherwise than as preparatory work for a new
major offensive. Southeast of

Stolovich gradually appeared dozens of catwalks and small bridges over the Shchara. At Labusy, south-east from Baranovichi, the river meanders, the valley of which dry June had made passable in the blind spot by one flat sandy island, at the northern end of which lies a small hill near Darowo beyond a flat morass depression. Here now approached innumerable from the dominant eastern Shchara Heights "Honeycomb ditches" on the eastern edge of Labusy; hundreds of new ones Ditches appeared to have been made.

Before the Austrian XII. Corps, the news of an accumulation of new Russian forces grew thicker. Apparently

the Russians calmly marched in front of our front to attack, after the most careful preparation and if avoided

of all the haste that cost him such heavy sacrifices on June 13th

had to carry out a planned offensive. That's how it went through

Creation and shifting of our reserves in all possible ways

to take into account. Since the Austrians would appear to be the main target of the attack, the army detachment provided six Germans

Battalions and two German batteries behind this corps ready to

while behind the sector of the Landwehr Corps two battalions and three batteries, behind the right wing of the Beskydy Corps two battalions and two batteries as reserves

remained eliminated. In addition, the Army Group Prince

Leopold of Bavaria still had three regiments and three battalions

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teria distributed in Baranovichi, Stolovich and Novoelnia.

Towards the end of June the general situation of the army

Department already more closely overlooked: as a break-in points

at the Austrian XII. Corps expected attack lifted

the terrain on the northern edge of Koldychevo Lake and at

Karcheva clearly. On a only 9 to 10 km wide

Here the Russians had battle-hardened forces of their 9th Corps
(3rd and 42nd Division) and the 46th Division moved together.

Prisoners also repeatedly commented on the accumulation
heavy artillery in this section and the provision of one or two rear-echelon army
corps.

In addition to the extraordinarily active entrenchment activity of the enemy east of
Skrobowa-Wyforok, the expansion was apparently one as well

Starting position for a secondary attack in the area of
to spot Zirin while the main attack is presumably at

Skrobowa would be led. With the extension of the attack to the area on the north
wing of the Austrian 35.

Division and against the north wing of the Landwehr Corps
to reckon with.

The initial ambiguity about the situation in front of the Landwehr Corps and the
Bredow Division soon gave way. Construction of numerous honeycomb trench
networks in the Labusy area

and troop movements in the terrain behind made one here

In any case, an attack is probable and possible. Once he had

Russians have already tested this battlefield, albeit with heavy casualties and
without any success. A main attack against

the Austrian corps with simultaneous, strong attack against
the Landwehr Corps, as the most expedient operation, had to

Breakthrough on Baranovichi appear. Opposite the left

wing of the Beskydy Corps on Moscow Street an attack was unlikely but not out of
the question during

on both sides of Lake Vygonovskoye the terrain is hardly too large

invited a stronger attack. The possibility of another attack on the 81st Reserve
Division at Logischin

could spread, consideration had to be taken. Under

these circumstances, the following reclassification took place in the list and distribution of the reserves on June 24:

1. Ldw.J.R. 37 is used by the Army Group of the Austrian

35 Jns.Div. made available.

2. Ldw.J.R. 19 remains south of Gorodishche behind the

Austrian 16 JnfJDiv.

3rd J.R. 335 and 6./Ldw.Feldart.R. 5 in the areas north-west of Stollowitschi become Army Group Reserves.

4th Res.Jäger-Batl. 21 at the disposal of the Landwehr Corps

behind the front of the 4. Ldw.Div., from June 27 from behind

Austrian 16th Division to Nowosiolki, on the 30th to Baranovichi.

8. 7./Ldw.Feldart.R. 5 and 6./Res.Fieldart.R. 35 to the army

Reserve under Lieutenant General v. K r a m s t a.

6. IH./Ldw.J.R.72*) is from the area of Ldw.Div.

Bredow moved to Baranovichi as an army reserve.

7th A Battalion Ldw.J.R. 72 and 5./Ldw.Feldart.R. 5

form Army Reserves behind Bredow Division north of Moscow Street.

From the West Pinsk as a reserve of the Commander-in-Chief

East standing 5th Reserve Division (v. Woyna) became the staff

of the 9th Res.Jnf.Brigade (K still) with Res.J.R. 8 and H./Res.Field

art.R. 5 (without 7th battery) available on June 23rd and 24th

the army department W o y r f c h promoted to Baranovichi and

soon after behind the Austrian section at Miratitschi

deployed northwest of Gorodishche.

In the morning we talked on the telex machine

June 26 two men, on whose shoulders a tremendous

Responsibility weighed heavily: The Chief of the General Staff of the Field

Army, General V. Falkenhayn, discussed with the General

Staff of the Army Department Woyrsch, Lieutenant Colonel Heye,
the situation and was informed that the front was in full
champions an attack she expected at all costs
as on June 13 with Stollowitschi. "B^{en}
On 28.6. the battalion will be assigned to the L.J.R. 51 or L.I'N. assigned II.

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The battles for Baranorvikschi.

Thank you", General von Falkenhayn ended the conversation,
"I was pleased to see from your replies that you
have no fear!"

No — verily! Nobody in the army knew fear-

Department Woyrsch! From the Generaloberst and the boss, from
inspired the troop leaders down to the youngest man in the trench
all just one feeling, one wish: "You should only
come!"

And they should come too . . . and already in the
next days.

As prisoners reliably testified, General Ragosa had
shortly before this day the front of the 24th and 25th before
Section of the Austrian XII. Corps deployed Russian
9th Corps and told the troops that they were called to
"to make up for the defeat of the grenadiers". From a
for no apparent reason would then be planned for the 28th
attack has been postponed.

But July 1st brought the unmistakable characteristics and
Precursor to every Russian attack: Finished expansion of the
Honeycomb system at tactically favorable points of attack; all over

Movement of troops and vehicles: dense occupancy of the localities behind the sections; clearly noticeable shooting light and heavy artillery and, above all, strong defectors Traffic to the front of the Austrians. Also let the meanwhile renewed decision sought against the army front L i n f i n g e n further restraint from strong Russian forces the Barawitfchi front for negative tasks no longer Appear credible: The main target of the attack now became clear "Brest-Litowfk about Baranowitscht". Der Breakthrough against Brest-Litovsk and the offensive against the Back of the Front Linsingen alone could bring the decision of the B r u s s i o w offensive. Only under this one or at least a similar assumption becomes the immeasurable exasperation Russian attacks on Shtkhara and Servetch in July 1916 understandable, the use of such enormous sacrifices against Baranovichl understandable.

The Second Battle of Baranovichl.

July 2nd and 3rd.

(Sketches 5 and 6.)

ight cloud — "the fog of uncertainty"

— usually stored over the ditches of the

rigid defense. Rarely does it air

fresh breezes of smaller raids here and there the heavy haze.

But when the battle storm roars,

when iron hail from a thousand cannons

hunts, striking throbbing firebolts . . . then tear them up

Clouds. The oppressive mist flees, and of fire and blood

Clarity and knowledge of hitherto shrouded mysteries flows. . .

Then fate strides across the battlefield spreading terror
and annihilation, glory and heroism over bleeding fields,
about men determined to die. And refined precious metal
flows from the bloody red blast furnace of battle — to the honorary shield of the
heroically struggling people.

July 2 dawned... a Sunday. By 4 clock

early on Russian batteries opened heavy fire on the Austrian positions north of Lake
Koldychevo, from 4'° off

also against the Darowo-Labusy section of the 17th Landwehr

Brigade*) (3rd Infantry Division). The enemy fired further

the positions at Odokhovschchina, on the right wing of the

4th Ldw.Div., and against the left wing of the Landwehr Regiment 51. In the Saosje-
Karcheva sector near the Austrian corps, the fire had already increased to 6:00 in
the morning

Barrage of all calibers up to the 28 om mortar, during the

*)II./L I.R. 72 is made available to her, she sets parts of pages 7 and 7.

company in the front line.

40

The south wing of the army department remained under moderate fire.

The big attack begins.

The clouds part and iron death gropes around.

Destiny is beating against the ditches, against the shelters, tugging

and tears at obstacle and wire. The hours creep and

to sneak. What will the evening bring? ... endless

time stretches. When will the assault roar

swirling brown tide? When will the obstacles

fill with roaring, twitching human bodies?

The afternoon, the evening, is slowly approaching. Will now

Hitting the hour of decision, because German steadfastness of

Home and the world should herald new glory?

Thunderbolts of the iron tempest rattle. sulfur yellow

Lightning flashes over the trenches. A whoosh and howl of whipping, piercing, gurgling projectiles cut through the air. Grinning, lurking, death squats in the dugout and ditch. Take

these hours, these eternal hours no end? When shrills

the alarm signal that drives us riflemen to the breastwork

melee ? Will our guns then shower the Russians with raging fire? Then who will live from us?

or roll in his blood on the ground? Do you hear then?

nor the fray of battle . . . or do you lie silent and

cold? ...

Lame, tired hours stretch into eternities. —

The distant home still has no idea. What did he report?

Army report last night? "Moderate artillery fire on

Shtkhara and Servetch" . . . What will he report today?

What do I mean out here . . . Schlester, Pofener, Brandenburger, Austrians ... here in the dugout? . . . A tiny

Grains of life between millions and millions of grains of sand. Or am I more than this? Doesn't hang

of every grain, of me, of all of us out here, that

fate of the homeland? Should Germany die because I live

want?...